

CURRENT NEWS **EARLY BIRD**

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India Carries Out Nuclear Tests In Defiance Of International Treaty

By John F. Burns

NEW DELHI, India -- Nearly 24 years after it detonated its only nuclear explosion, India conducted three underground nuclear tests on Monday at a site in the country's northwestern desert. The move appeared to signal India's determination to abandon decades of ambiguity in favor of openly declaring that it has nuclear weapons.

After less than two months in office, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leader of a Hindu nationalist party that has been a advocate of India's embracing nuclear weapons as a step toward great-power status, emerged on the lawn of his residence here and read a statement. Speaking in the late afternoon, he said that the tests had been carried out barely an hour earlier at the Pokharan testing range in Rajasthan state, 350 miles southwest of New Delhi, where India's first nuclear test was conducted on May 18, 1974.

"I have a brief announcement to make," Vajpayee said as he delivered his statement

from a lectern set beside a flagpole flying India's orange, white, and green national flag. "Today, at 15:45 hours, India conducted three underground nuclear tests in the Pokharan range. The tests conducted were with a fission device, a low-yield device, and a thermonuclear device."

"The measured yields are in line with expected values. Measurements have confirmed that there was no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere. These were contained explosions like in the experiment conducted in May 1974. I warmly congratulate the scientists and engineers who have carried out the successful tests. Thank you very much indeed."

Vajpayee's principal secretary, Brajesh Mishra, said afterward that the tests had established "that India has a proven capability for a weaponized nuclear program." Mishra said the tests would help scientists design "nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications and for different delivery systems" -- meaning, Indian experts said,

that the explosions were meant to test different types of nuclear warheads for India's fast-developing missile program, which has a mix of delivery vehicles designed to reach targets as close as Pakistan and as distant as China.

The tests were widely welcomed in India, with hardly any immediate dissent from opposition political parties and little sign of the Gandhian pacifism that was a strong element in Indian policy in the early years after the country's independence in 1947. Popular opinion appeared to be strongly behind the tests, as a demonstration of India's ability to compete scientifically and militarily with the world's most powerful nations. Even Vajpayee's predecessor as prime minister, I.K. Gujral, a political moderate who blocked the tests during his year in office, said: "It was always known that India had the capability to do this; the tests only confirm what was always known."

But the outcry from outside India was almost universal, with dozens of governments

expressing anger that India had broken an informal moratorium on nuclear testing that went into effect from the fall of 1996, when India and Pakistan stood aside as scores of other nations met at the United Nations to endorse a measure known as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would ban all nuclear tests, in the atmosphere and underground. The treaty is widely regarded as a key step toward halting the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Indian tests drew immediate condemnation from the Clinton administration, which said the United States was "deeply disappointed" and was reviewing trade and financial sanctions against India under American non-proliferation laws; by other western nations, including Britain, which voiced its "dismay"; by Germany, which called the tests "a slap in the face" for 149 countries that have signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and by Kofi Annan, the U.N. secretary-general, who issued a statement expressing his "deep regret."

But perhaps the most sig-

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nificant reaction came from Pakistan, which raised fears that years of effort by the United States to prevent an unrestrained nuclear arms race on the Indian sub-continent were on the verge of collapse. In the absence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was visiting Central Asia, Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan hinted that Pakistan, which has had its own covert nuclear-weapons program since the early 1970s, would consider conducting a nuclear test of its own, its first.

"Pakistan reserves the right to take all appropriate measures for its security," Ayub Khan said in a statement to the Senate in Islamabad, the Pakistan capital, that came amid an outpouring of demands from right-wing politicians and hardline Islamic groups for an immediate nuclear test by Pakistan. Ayub Khan added: "The responsibility for dealing a death blow to the global efforts at non-proliferation rests squarely with India."

The Pakistan official laid the blame for the Indian tests on western nations, mainly the United States, for not moving to head them off after Pakistan raised an alarm in Washington last month about the nuclear plans of the Vajpayee government. When it took office in March after a general election, the 14-party coalition government led by the Hindu nationalists pledged that it would review India's policy with a view to "inducting" nuclear weapons into its armed forces.

"We are surprised at the naivete of the western world, and also of the United States, that they did not take the cautionary signals that we were flashing to them," the Pakistani foreign minister said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation. Saying that India had been "encouraged by the lackluster signals" that the western pow-

ers gave India on the subject, Ayub Khan added: "I think they could have restrained India. Now India has thumbed its nose to the western world and the entire international community."

Pakistan demanded that the United States impose harsh sanctions against India. But many Pakistanis predicted that Islamabad would conduct a nuclear test of its own quickly. Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, said in a BBC interview in London that her government had a contingency plan in 1996 to carry out a nuclear test if India did. She said the capability still existed, and should be used. "If we don't, India will go ahead and adopt aggressive designs on us," she said.

The Vajpayee government's decision to conduct the tests so soon after taking office appeared to catch the United States and the world's other established nuclear weapons states -- Britain, China, France, and Russia -- by surprise. Although Pokharan, the test site, lies in flat desert terrain, under cloudless skies at this time of the year, Indian scientists appeared to have succeeded in keeping preparations for the test secret, even from American spy satellites that have long been deployed to watch for signs of imminent nuclear tests in the region.

The surprise was all the greater because the Clinton administration succeeded in heading off an earlier plan by India to stage the tests, in December 1995, when preparations at the Pokharan site, including the movement of vehicles and the deployment of testing equipment, were spotted by American satellites. After President Clinton ordered American diplomats to warn the P.V. Narasimha Rao, prime minister at the time, that going ahead with the tests would result in severe economic sanc-

tions against India, Rao called off the preparations, prompting Clinton to telephone Rao and congratulate him.

This time, the Vajpayee government appeared keen to heighten the symbolism of the tests, staging them on the same festival day as the first Indian test in 1974. The festival, known as Buddha Purnima, is an ancient Buddhist holiday, celebrated by Buddhists and Hindus alike, that falls at the time of the full moon, and is widely regarded as being especially auspicious. According to nuclear scientists who oversaw the first test, the code message flashed to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi confirming the test's success was "the Buddha is smiling."

But Indian commentators noted that Vajpayee's statement differed in one important respect from Mrs. Gandhi's announcement nearly a quarter of a century ago. Then, Mrs. Gandhi described the test at Pokharan as a "peaceful" explosion, setting the theme for all subsequent Indian policy statements on the country's nuclear program until Monday. In the past, the public statements have emphasized the peaceful nature of the program without confirming what western intelligence reports have asserted, namely that India has been covertly developing nuclear weapons.

By avoiding the word "peaceful" in his announcement on Monday, Vajpayee appeared to signaling that the days of artful ambiguity about India's plans are at an end. For years, the Hindu nationalists, led by Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party, have called for India to take a more assertive role in its dealings with the world, one that the nationalists believe is more appropriate for a nation with a 5,000-year history, a distinctive Hindu civilization, and a population, now nearing 980 million, which means nearly one in every five human

beings is an Indian.

In this context, the nuclear tests appeared to have been as much a political gesture as a harbinger of military intent. Although Indian nuclear scientists have long pressed governments in New Delhi for clearance to conduct nuclear tests, saying laboratory tests could not effectively simulate an actual explosion, Vajpayee and his associates appeared to want to put the world on notice that a more determined government has taken office, one that will press India's interests even in the face of international condemnation.

In statements issued after Vajpayee's announcement, the Indian government sought to take some of the political sting out of the tests, saying it held to the long-established Indian position of favoring "a total, global elimination of nuclear weapons," and that it had not closed the door to some form of Indian participation in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty if established nuclear powers committed themselves to this goal. But diplomats said that appeared to be mainly aimed at dissuading the United States from imposing economic sanctions.

The core of the new government's thinking seemed to be represented by Kushabhau Thakre, the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who said the tests showed that the Vajpayee government "unlike previous regimes, will not give in to international pressure." Thakre added: "It is a re-assertion of our sovereign right to decide for ourselves how best to meet our security concerns, and it is a repudiation of the nuclear apartheid that the West has sought to impose on us."

Strategists who have the ear of the Hindu nationalists have argued that India's deference to American pressures put the country at risk of being perma-

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nently stunted as a nuclear power. According to one recent estimate, by the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington-based research group, India has stockpiled enough weapons-grade plutonium to make 74 nuclear warheads, while Pakistan has enough weapons-grade uranium for about 10 weapons. A parallel race to develop missiles that could carry nuclear warheads accelerated last month when Pakistan test-fired a missile, the Ghauri, that it says has a range of nearly 1,000 miles.

But many Indians believed the message of Monday's tests was intended more for China than Pakistan. Although Pakistan has fought three wars with India since the partition of the sub-continent in 1947 and is engaged in a long-running proxy conflict with New Delhi in the contested territory of Kashmir, Indian political and military strategists have concluded that even a nuclear-armed Pakistan, with 130 million people and an economy ravaged by corruption, does not pose as great a long-term threat to India as China does.

China is even more populous than India, has long-running border disputes with New Delhi that cover tens of thousands of square miles of Indian-held territory, and has an expanding arsenal of nuclear missiles that it has been developing since the 1960s, with none of the pressures from western powers to desist that India has faced. Monday's tests came barely a week after George Fernandes, defense minister in the Vajpayee government, warned that China, not Pakistan, is India's "potential enemy number one."

Fernandes was voicing concerns that have long undercut American efforts to persuade India to forswear nuclear weapons. While these efforts have concentrated on attempts to persuade India to tie its nuclear program to Pakistan's, with both nations "capping" and eventually scrapping their weapons programs, most Indian strategists believe that any decision to "build down" India's nuclear effort would be tantamount to accepting that Chinese military power will dominate Asia in the 21st-century.

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American intelligence taken by surprise

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. intelligence agencies failed to detect any signs that India was preparing for the underground nuclear weapons blasts carried out yesterday and were embarrassed by New Delhi's extensive efforts to hide the tests.

The Indians engaged in elaborate "denial and deception" of U.S. satellites and other spying in the weeks leading up to the three tests at the nuclear center near Pokhran, in the northwestern state of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan.

"We had zero warning," said an administration official close to the CIA.

The intelligence failure has heightened concerns among U.S. officials about the ability to monitor cheating on a proposed international nuclear testing ban being considered for ratification by the Senate.

"There were three tests, and none were detected," said a Senate aide. "If our satellites can't tell us what was happening, what does that say about their ability to verify the [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty]?"

The primary means of detecting preparations for nuclear tests is electronic and photographic sur-

veillance by the National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Office. Both agencies rely on "overhead" spy satellites.

"Our overhead saw and heard nothing," said a second administration official.

A CIA spokesman had no official comment.

John Pike, a technical intelligence specialist with the Federation of American Scientists, called the episode "the intelligence failure of the decade."

The intelligence community should have known about the test before it took place so that it could warn policy-makers, who could have taken diplomatic or other steps to avert it, he said.

"[The Indians] went out of their way to do it in a way that wouldn't be detected," said a third administration official in a position to know. "We've been watching the site fairly carefully and on a fairly regular basis. They clearly did things in a way that tried to rush it through."

Nuclear testing normally is preceded by increased vehicle and personnel activity at sites.

U.S. intelligence agencies learned of the blasts as the result of seismic monitoring, said U.S. officials.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said, "We had no advance notification that the tests would occur." National Security Adviser Samuel Berger added, "We have made it quite clear to the Indians that we would strongly urge them not to undertake such a test."

Intelligence analysts believe the tests were carried out in part as the Indian response to Pakistan's April 10 test firing of 900-mile-range missiles.

"We could be looking at a nuclear arms race in South Asia,"

said Henry Sokolski, director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center.

Other specialists pointed to domestic political concerns on the part of the Indian government as prompting the tests, which are expected to prompt U.S. economic sanctions as required by at least two U.S. anti-nuclear proliferation laws.

The largest of the blasts had an estimated yield of between 20 and 30 kilotons. A kiloton is equal to about 1,000 tons of TNT.

Indian press accounts have said the government's decision to "go nuclear" with the tests — the first since India exploded its first device in 1974 — were due in part to the failure of the United States to curb Chinese missile and nuclear exports to Pakistan.

The Indian nuclear tests are a blow to the Clinton administration's efforts to win Senate approval of the treaty banning all nuclear tests. That treaty was submitted in September.

A Senate aide said yesterday that the Indian nuclear test triggers a U.S. law that allows the United States to resume nuclear testing if any state conducts an underground blast after September 1996.

"This means that the United States is legally free to engage in nuclear testing," the aide said. "It debunks the administration's claim that the test ban is OK because we're no longer in the testing business. We're back in it."

Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a May 6 letter to the Appropriations Committee that the test ban treaty "has not been and may never be ratified by the U.S. Senate."

The treaty must be ratified by 44 specific countries including India, which he noted has rejected it

'outright.'

"I do not expect [Foreign Relations] Committee consideration of the treaty this session," Mr. Helms, North Carolina Republican, said in the letter. It was sent to oppose an administration funding request for international nuclear monitoring systems under the treaty because the pact has not been ratified.

The Indian test also could lead China to resume nuclear tests, the latest of which took place in 1996. China has said it would halt tests

as long as India refrained.

The CIA said in a report to Congress last year that the Indians probably put off a test in 1995 because it would "significantly damage" its relations with foreign countries and undermine efforts to attract foreign investment.

The CIA report said India and Pakistan "can assemble a small number of nuclear weapons on short notice."

According to U.S. nuclear specialists, the Indians have a plutonium-based nuclear weapons

program that could include bombs capable of creating a half-megaton explosion — the equivalent of 500,000 tons of TNT.

Government officials said it's likely Pakistan will respond to the tests by conducting its own.

The Clinton administration is expected to move quickly to impose economic sanctions on India as required by a nuclear non-proliferation law in part to deter any tests by Pakistan, said officials.

Washington Post

May 12, 1998

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India Sets Off Nuclear Devices

Test Likely To Step Up Rivalry With Pakistan

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post
Foreign Service

NEW DELHI, May 11—India said that it conducted three underground nuclear tests today, the nation's first since 1974, escalating a strategic arms race with regional arch-rival Pakistan and exposing India to possible U.S. sanctions.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leader of India's seven-week-old Hindu nationalist government, said the three devices tested included a thermonuclear device, commonly known as a hydrogen bomb. A top aide to the prime minister said the device was more powerful than the so-called low-yield warhead India tested 24 years ago.

Vajpayee's brief statement did not explain why the tests were conducted. But the aide, Brajesh Mishra, indicated that the simultaneous explosions 330 miles southwest of New Delhi, near the Pakistani border, were intended to remove any doubt about India's capacity to build nuclear weapons. Previously, India has said its nuclear program was for peaceful purposes and spoke only of keeping open the option of making strategic weapons if they were needed to ensure national security.

"These tests have established that India has a proven capability for a weaponized nuclear program," said Mishra, whose position is roughly equivalent to the White House chief of staff. "They also provide a valuable database which

is useful in the design of nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications and for different delivery systems."

The decision by Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist government to show its strategic strength

came a month after Pakistan successfully tested a ballistic missile capable of striking India's major cities and a week after Defense Minister George Fernandes identified another neighbor, China, as the principal military threat to India.

Since the end of the Cold War, many U.S. analysts have described the Indian subcontinent as the world's likeliest nuclear flash point because of enduring tensions between predominantly Hindu India and the Islamic Republic of Paki-

A Nuclear Flashpoint?

India's explosion of a nuclear bomb may escalate the strategic-arms race in volatile South Asia. Here is a look at the nuclear capabilities of the three major nations there.

INDIA

- Not a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- Detonated a nuclear device (low-yield) in 1974, its only previous nuclear test.

MISSILES

- India has one of the developing world's most ambitious missile programs. It has developed the short-range Prithvi missile, range 93 miles to 217 miles. It also has developed the long-range ballistic missile known as the Agni, range 1,550 miles. The Agni reportedly needs only a few more tests before it can enter full-scale production.

AIR FORCE

- India has a sizable air force with several advanced fighter-bombers that could deliver nuclear weapons, including the British-French Jaguar, the French Mirage-2000 and the Soviet-supplied MiG.

CHINA

- The region's dominant military power, which has had nuclear weapons for decades. It has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- In May 1995, China conducted an underground nuclear test, just days after the successful extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- In June 1996, it carried out its most recent nuclear explosion at the Lop Nor test site in northwestern Xinjiang province.
- China has a highly developed air force, a substantial supply of ballistic missiles and an estimated 400 nuclear warheads.

PAKISTAN

- Not a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- Secretly launched nuclear program in 1972.
- A 1993 U.S. Senate report said Pakistan received nuclear assistance from China and made efforts to obtain nuclear equipment from Western firms.

MISSILES

- Pakistan has received complete missile systems from China as well as designs for a missile factory and nuclear warheads. Pakistan may be producing the Hatf-3 missile with a range of 370 to 500 miles; this missile was tested last July. Pakistan reportedly also has developed a 930-mile missile, named the Ghauri.

AIR FORCE

- Pakistan has several nuclear-capable fighter-bomber aircraft, including the U.S.-supplied F-16s.



SOURCES: Jane's Intelligence Review, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Military Balance, Associated Press

THE WASHINGTON POST

stan. Both nations have long been known to have nuclear capabilities, although Pakistan has never exploded a nuclear device.

The announcement of India's tests brought condemnation from the Clinton administration and Pakistan.

"Pakistan strongly condemns this Indian act, and the entire world should condemn it," Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan told the Reuters news service. "It has sucked Pakistan into an arms race."

Khan told lawmakers in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, that "the responsibility for dealing a death blow to the global efforts at nuclear non-proliferation rests squarely with India."

"The United States is deeply disappointed by the decision of the government of India to conduct three nuclear tests," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said. "This runs counter to the effort the international community is making to promulgate a comprehensive ban on such testing."

Senior Clinton administration officials were seeking further information about the tests to determine whether they would trigger economic and technological sanctions under U.S. law. Mishra said the Indian government anticipated sanctions would be imposed. "We will not face problems" coping with them, he said.

Other nations spoke disapprovingly as well, news services reported. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned India and called the

tests a "slap in the face" to the 149 nations that have signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy called the test "a very major regressive step backward. . . . When you get into playing with new nuclear powers, or new nuclear powers, it's very destabilizing for the whole world."

There was no immediate reaction from China. The official New China News Agency reported the tests without comment.

For several years, India and Pakistan have engaged in a regional Cold War that until today had been confined to the development of missiles with progressively longer ranges. Pakistan's test last month of the Ghauri missile, with a range of 930 miles, was seen as a response to India's movement last year of Prithvi missiles into storage near the Pakistani border within range of Pakistan's major cities.

Mishra indicated that the Vajpayee government assumed -- based on statements by Pakistan's top nuclear scientist -- that its regional arch-rival intends to match the latest escalation.

The Pakistani scientist, Rifaat Hussain, an international relations professor and former diplomat, said today: "Our position has always been if India tests, we will follow suit. It's a very dangerous development. . . . You have a missile race going on, and now you have a nuclear race going on."

Vajpayee said the tests "contained explosions like the experiment conducted in May

1974," the only previous time India has detonated a nuclear device. Today's tests were done at the same location as the first test: Pokaran, in the desert of Rajasthan state about 70 miles from the Pakistani border. The prime minister said monitoring equipment showed no radioactivity was released into the atmosphere.

India said today's tests included the detonation of a thermonuclear device that Mishra said had a "much bigger" yield than the 1974 explosion, while the other two carried about the same force. One was "a low-yield device" like the one tested in 1974, and the other "a fission device."

Although the United States' use of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II, as well as the Cold War that followed, eventually spawned a worldwide effort to ban such devices, the development of strategic arms enjoys wide public support in both India and Pakistan, according to opinion polls.

A majority of people in Pakistan, which has lost three wars to India since 1947, consider nuclear weaponry a practical way to neutralize India's superior conventional strength. In the face of India's vast size -- 950 million people, compared with Pakistan's 135 million -- and its military prowess, Pakistan cannot hope to keep pace despite heavy defense expenditures, analysts say.

India apparently is driven more by a desire for international respect for a huge but poor nation. The nation's strategic analysts typically speak of

a need to compete militarily with China, a declared nuclear power that humiliated India in a 1962 border war and has treated its neighbor as an inconsequential military threat since then.

Today's test follows by seven weeks the rise to power of a coalition government led by Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which -- despite its shaky hold on power -- has been more aggressive than its predecessors in its stance toward India's global role and its relations with its neighbors. Both the BJP's campaign platform and the government's espoused agenda promised to "exercise the option to induct nuclear weapons" -- wording that was interpreted as deliberately ambiguous.

One BJP leader predicted that the testing would unify a politically divided India.

"Very nice. Very nice," a middle-class New Delhi resident said upon hearing the news. "This is the response to Pakistan, and [Fernandes was] talking about China."

Mishra did hold out the possibility that India's tests could ultimately lead to more formal restraint instead of escalation. He said that India could forswear future tests in accord with the test-ban treaty -- which neither India or Pakistan has signed -- and in the future depend on computer simulations to update its nuclear capability.

Such a scenario, Mishra said, "would depend on a number of reciprocal activities."

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India's Nuclear Tests Could Provoke U.S. Sanctions, Officials Say

By Tim Weiner

WASHINGTON -- India's nuclear tests on Monday triggered an American law that could block billions of dollars of aid to India and set off fears of a regional arms race among American officials, who pleaded with Pakistan not to conduct its own nuclear weapons explosions.

Sandy Berger, the national security adviser, said he and other top officials were scrutinizing the never-used 1994 Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, a federal law that orders President Clinton to impose severe penalties on nations conducting nuclear tests or selling nuclear weapons. The law on nuclear tests covers nations that are developing

nuclear weapons but excludes the declared nuclear powers, Russia, China, Great Britain and France.

The law requires Clinton to cut off almost all government aid to India, bar American banks from making loans to its government, stop exports of American products with military uses such as machine tools and computers -- and, most importantly, oppose aid to India by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

India is the world's largest borrower from the World Bank, with more than \$44 billion in loans; it is expecting about \$3

billion in loans and credits this year. The International Monetary Fund has no programs underway with India, a spokesman for the fund said.

Direct U.S. assistance to India has not exceeded several hundred million dollars annually in recent years. This year, it included \$41 million in licenses to buy military equipment and \$51 million in development assistance, among other items.

Monday's tests "came as a complete shock, a bolt out of the blue" to the White House, one senior administration official said. "It's a fork in the

road," this official said. "Will India and Pakistan be locked in a nuclear arms race? Will the Chinese resume nuclear testing now?"

Although American officials expressed shock, the Hindu Nationalist Party announced that it would review India's nuclear policy the day before it took power in March. During the election campaign, the party said it intended to "induct" nuclear weapons into India's arsenal.

"Induct" is a technical term meaning formally placing such weapons in military stockpiles, and American officials said on Monday they did not foresee that the government would take the provocative step of resuming testing. Nor did U.S. intelligence agencies pick up any signs that the tests were imminent; all agencies reported that activities at the test site appeared to be routine.

Government officials expressed fury that they received no warning of the tests from the intelligence agencies or the Indian government. U.S. officials strongly rebuked India while urging its nuclear-armed neighbor, Pakistan, not to conduct its own tests. Berger warned against "a new round of escalation."

Clinton was "deeply distressed by the announcement of three nuclear tests," his spokesman, Mike McCurry, said on Monday, and "has authorized formal presentation of our displeasure to be made to the government in New Delhi."

The nuclear tests pose a challenge for Clinton, whose

foreign policy toward India and his scheduled trip there this fall both now require rethinking, administration officials said.

That policy rested on reducing nuclear tensions in the region and promoting trade between India and the United States. The tensions are now at their highest since India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, and trade may be crippled, along with key elements of the Indian economy, by the sanctions likely to be imposed as a result of the tests.

"Those sanctions are mandatory," said Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, the law's author. The only way to delay them is if the president tells Congress that their immediate imposition would harm national security -- and that delay can only last 30 days. Congress can remove the sanctions by passing a law or joint resolution.

"It would be hard to avoid the possibility of sanctions," a senior State Department official said. "There is no wiggle room in the law."

Because of the size of the World Bank loans to India, their cutoff as a result of U.S. pressure "would have serious implications for their budget, serious detrimental effects," a World Bank official said on Monday.

Cutting aid to India would require a majority vote of members of the World Bank. While the United States cannot tell the World Bank what to do, "we have a fairly heavy vote," a senior State Department official said.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., who heads the Senate

Foreign Relations subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, urged the administration to punish India under the law.

"It's a terrible action on the part of the Indian government," he said. "It's an enormous negative blow to our relationship with India. It'll destabilize the region."

The British government does not have a similar law mandating sanctions, but India is the largest recipient of British government foreign aid.

But on Tuesday, Britain expects that a policy meeting of the European Union will discuss implications of the tests, a spokesman for the British Mission to the United Nations said on Monday. Britain currently is filling the presidency of the European Union.

Glenn called the tests "the triumph of fear over prudence, a monumental setback for efforts to halt the global spread of nuclear weapons."

Henry Sokolski, a former senior Pentagon official for non-proliferation policy, said: "India has just dug a big hole for itself by doing this test -- a military, political and economic hole. Its banking system's in a world of hurt now. It's about to get a death blow. This is not just a nuclear test for India. It's a political test for the United States."

The shock of the tests was amplified by the fact that the nation's top nuclear proliferation experts only learned about them on Monday morning from news agencies and television networks, not from the CIA. Several of those government

experts expressed fury at the U.S. intelligence community and the Indian government for failing to provide advance notice of the event.

Government experts said on Monday night they were still trying to come to grips with the meaning of the tests.

"There are two scenarios," a senior administration official said. The optimists at the White House believe "the Indians will say that now that they've secured confidence in their nuclear weapons stockpile, they are prepared to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

The pessimists think the Indians "now have decided they're going to be an open nuclear power," he said. "They will endure international sanctions and condemnation. They accept that they and the Pakistanis will be locked in a nuclear arms race."

Pakistan's senior nuclear scientist warned last week that his nation would conduct nuclear tests if India did. And China is aware that "India's nuclear option is directed at China" as well as Pakistan, the senior administration official said.

That left little hope for a cooling off, and growing fears in Washington that a Pakistani test could set off an Indian response that could provoke China in a spiral of tests and threats that could lead to war.

A senior State Department official said: "We all have fears. What's going to happen next door? Is this going to be a series of chain reactions? Is there any way to prevent it?"

Baltimore Sun
May 12, 1998
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Lockheed said to land F-16 deal

**U.A.E. reportedly
will purchase
up to 80 jets**

\$6 billion to \$8 billion

**'Major victory' seen;
announcement
is expected today**

By GREG SCHNEIDER
SUN STAFF

The United Arab Emirates will announce today

that it plans to buy up to 80 F-16 fighter planes from Lockheed Martin Corp. in a deal valued at between \$6 billion and \$8 billion, sources said yesterday.

The order would boost more than sales for the Bethesda defense contractor.

It would assert U.S. dominance of the global warplane market, certify Lockheed Martin's position as the world's leading supplier of midrange fighter jets and keep the F-16 production line in Fort Worth, Texas, humming into the next century.

"It's a major victory for Lockheed Martin, and really

for this decade it's one of the major victories in international sales," said Brett Lambert of the defense consulting firm DFI International.

The U.A.E. also had been considering the French Rafale and the multinational Eurofighter for its jet fighter purchase.

An 80-plane purchase is not that large on a historical scale, experts said, but is considerable in the current climate of scaled-back military spending.

The only similar deal on the horizon is a possible 100-plane purchase by Saudi Arabia, expected in the next

year or two.

The U.A.E.'s decision to go with the F-16 might give the plane an advantage in the Saudi competition as well, experts said.

Northrop Grumman Corp.'s

Electronic Sensors & Systems Division in Linthicum also stands to gain from the U.A.E. purchase; the company makes the radar system for the F-16.

Spokesman for both companies declined to comment on news of a U.A.E. decision.

The White House issued a statement promising that Vice President Al Gore will join the crown prince of the U.A.E. today "for an announcement regarding thousands of new jobs for Texas workers."

Gore also is scheduled to travel to Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems in Fort Worth on Friday for a rally connected with the announcement.

Lambert said the government is still negotiating with the U.A.E.

over what type of missile technology to include with the planes.

The European candidates had promised advanced missile systems; the fact that the U.A.E. would settle on F-16s without that aspect resolved shows how badly such countries want U.S. military hardware, Lambert said.

Lockheed Martin shares rose 6.25 cents to close at \$112.50 yesterday. Some on Wall Street were already counting on the U.A.E. sale. "We actually had that factored in to our numbers, so there's not a lot of additive earnings," said Roger Threlfall of J. P. Morgan Securities.

"The importance of it is it extends the F-16 line and continues the strong international performance of the F-16," he said.

The only new warplane that Lockheed Martin is currently slated to build is the expensive, high-performance F-22 fighter jet — not yet approved for export, a market that plays an increasingly prominent role in the defense industry's bottom line.

That makes keeping the F-16 alive even more important, said Richard Aboulafia, a military aircraft expert with the Teal Group defense consulting firm.

"Also, this should persuade the corporation to develop new versions that will keep the F-16 competitive into the next century," Aboulafia said.

Upgrades such as enhanced range and better radar could boost the plane's performance within reach of the next generation of advanced fighters — an extraordinary claim for a plane first produced during the 1970s, he said.

The F-16 is already on its way to becoming the second most popular fighter plane in modern aeronautical history, Aboulafia said.

The 4,000th F-16 will leave the assembly line sometime in the next two years, passing the F-5 in number and trailing only the Northrop F-4 fighter, which topped 5,000 planes during a two-decade production period.

Washington Post

May 12, 1998

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GOP Leaders Demand Satellite Export Data

U.S. Documents Sought On Whether Firms Aided Chinese Nuclear Missile Capability

By Juliet Eilperin
Washington Post
Staff Writer

Congress's two top Republicans are demanding that the White House provide documents on whether China's nuclear missile capability was aided by an administration policy on exporting commercial satellites.

Both the Senate and House have begun investigating President Clinton's decision to let two aerospace companies, Loral Space and Communications and Hughes Electronic Corp., export satellites to be launched atop Chinese rockets. The chairmen of the House International Relations and National Security committees first asked the administration for documents in late April after learning that the Justice Department is probing whether Loral improperly gave advice to the Chinese when analyzing a 1996 Loral satellite crash.

"To date, the administration has refused to provide so much as one document to refute the evidence put forward in press accounts" of the incident, Sen-

ate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) wrote to Clinton on Friday.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry yesterday disputed the letter's assertion. "We're willing to make available whatever information they need to satisfy themselves that these decisions have been made on sound national security grounds," McCurry said.

Later, a White House official said the administration has dispatched an "interagency team" to Capitol Hill to discuss with investigators what documents they want, and that lawyers are already at work trying to retrieve materials in response to the congressional requests.

Though committees have requested documents on the incident from the State, Defense and Commerce departments as well as the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the administration has responded in the past that providing this information would jeopardize the current probe.

Lott and Gingrich rejected this argument. "If you are willing to share the relevant

information with us, we will ensure that mechanisms are established to secure the documents and prevent any disclosure that might affect any ongoing criminal investigation," they wrote. "But, if our efforts to determine the facts are obstructed, we will use every power we have to procure all of this information so that thorough and complete congressional oversight can be conducted."

The dispute centers on allegations, first reported in the New York Times, that a U.S. scientific committee established to satisfy insurers about China's ability to launch commercial satellites ultimately boosted the country's nuclear missile technology. A 1997 classified Pentagon report said U.S. security "has been harmed" by the incident, according to officials who have seen the report.

In recent weeks Republicans have begun to explore whether the Clinton administration undermined the ongoing criminal investigation of Loral by issuing a second waiver in February allowing Loral to export another commercial satellite to China. According to a Senate aide familiar with the case,

lawmakers are concerned that the license Loral obtained from the administration "was constructed broadly enough to allow for, even implicitly, the kind of activity that went on in 1996 without a license."

Though some Justice officials initially protested Clinton's decision, according to sources, they have continued to probe the allegations and do not believe the move would undercut any potential case against Loral.

Republicans are particularly interested in whether the administration favored Loral because its chief executive officer, Bernard L. Schwartz, ranks as one of the Democratic party's top donors. Loral has denied any wrongdoing in the case.

Hughes has sought to distance itself from the controversy. In an interview yesterday, Hughes vice president and general counsel Marcy J.K. Tiffany emphasized that Loral controlled the review of why the "Long March" rocket crashed in 1996 and made the decision to share the panel's report with China.

"The bottom line is, Hughes did not transfer any technology to the Chinese," Tiffany said.

Staff writers John F. Harris and Roberto Suro contributed to this report.

Officials: Defense, Commercial Integration Must Continue*By Vago Muradian*

The Pentagon must continue to foster greater integration between defense and commercial industries to achieve its goal of reducing procurement costs and maintaining healthy competition for future weapons and systems programs, according to senior officials.

"Frankly, we would like not to have a defense industrial base; we would rather have an industrial base," Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre told an audience last week at the Global Air & Space '98 conference in Arlington, Va.

Blurring the distinction between traditional defense companies and commercial industry is one of the many goals of the Pentagon's wide-ranging acquisition reform effort to reduce the cost of weapons and services by eliminating inefficient practices.

"There are enormously inefficient business practices that we have in the department that we have to wrestle our way through," Hamre said. For example, Hamre said that 1.4 million separate items produced by industry undergo quality inspections by the Defense Department inspectors at undetermined cost. Although these inspectors do a good job, it may be time to eliminate such inspections and allow companies to use the standard commercial practices to ensure quality.

Stan Soloway, the Pentagon's new acquisition reform chief, added that the Pentagon must break barriers to greater integration for two reasons.

"First, we cannot afford to support an industrial base solely dedicated to defense; and second, many of the critical technologies we need are being developed in the commercial sector, which we cannot always access," Soloway told an acquisition reform panel. "Hence, we are very focused right now on identifying the true impediments to real integration of the commercial and military industrial bases" and solving them.

The hope is that reforming the procurement system will entice commercial firms into doing business with the government, allowing the Pentagon to take advantage of rapidly developing commercial technologies, for example in computers, software and communications.

At the same time, the Pentagon wants traditional defense companies to adopt commercial practices, think more creatively in solving problems, and expand their commercial opportunities to make them less dependent on dwindling military business.

Darleen Druyun, the Air Force's top civilian acquisition official, added defense companies that are being creative are winning major contracts, such as Lockheed Martin's [LMT] recent victory over Boeing [BA] in the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile competition.

Druyun said that one reason Lockheed Martin won was that it adopted construction techniques from a surf board maker to reduce the cost of the sophisticated missile.

Hamre and Soloway added that although acquisition reform efforts are far from perfect, much has been accomplished since implementation of the measures about three years ago.

McKinney to get higher pension; lawsuit against accuser dropped

USA Today
May 12, 1998
Pg. 5

By Andrea Stone
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will allow Gene McKinney, convicted in March of obstructing justice and demoted to master sergeant, to collect the pension of a sergeant major of the Army, the job he lost after six women accused him of sexual misconduct.

The opinion by the Defense Department's general counsel's office means that McKinney, 47, who plans to retire in September, will get the maximum retirement benefits earned over a 30-year career. He will receive a pension starting at \$3,151 a month instead of a master sergeant's pension of \$2,315. The difference over a 25-year retirement is more than \$350,000.

The opinion was issued April 21 in response to an Army request for guidance. A week later, McKinney's lawyer, Charles Gittins, quietly

dropped a \$1.5 million libel lawsuit against his client's initial accuser, Brenda Hoster.

Although it has been two months since a military jury acquitted McKinney of all but one of 19 charges, the Pentagon ruling is certain to renew debate about the case. The decision could put pressure on Congress to reconsider a 1986 federal statute that may now have the unintended consequence of allowing a person to keep benefits despite a felony conviction.

Under the law, the senior enlisted member of each military branch is guaranteed the pension benefits of that position, even if he subsequently serves at a lower rank. The statute also applies to service chiefs and the chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gittins, who is appealing McKinney's conviction, said the Pentagon made "the appropriate decision. The law calls for it. It's a no-

brainer."

But Hoster's lawyer, Susan Barnes, said the law is mind-boggling. "To make these people bullet-proof is an outrage," she said.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Johnna Vinson, who says McKinney propositioned her at a conference, is furious that his demotion by a jury to master sergeant will carry no financial consequences.

"This is another slap in the face," she said. "I want Congress to stand up and say this is not what we intended. We're going to pay a convicted felon full retirement? This is not right."

Vinson says she will lobby Congress to change the law.

Meanwhile, Gittins confirmed Monday that he filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit against Hoster late last month. It was Hoster's charge in a Feb. 4, 1997, *New York Times* article that McKinney kissed her in a

Hawaii hotel room that kicked off the controversy. Five other women later lodged similar complaints.

Gittins has called McKinney's accusers "liars, cheats and admitted frauds" and said he would have won the case on its merits. But he said McKinney's wife, Wilhemina, "does not want to go through another trial."

Gittins also advised McKinney, whom he said has three manage-

ment job offers in the Washington area, that he stood little chance of recovering damages. Hoster, a retired Army sergeant major, now earns \$8 an hour running errands and cleaning houses.

Barnes, Hoster's attorney, said: "That was a frivolous lawsuit. It was never more than an intimidation and publicity ploy."

Hoster, 40, reached on a cellular phone while she was shopping for a

client in an El Paso, Texas, supermarket, said she believes the timing of the pension ruling and the lawsuit dismissal are not coincidental.

"Do you think (the lawsuit) would have been dropped if he didn't get his full retirement?" she asked. "Tell me there isn't some deal there. Don't you think the Army wants to get it out of the news and close it?"

Washington Post

May 12, 1998

Pg. 7

CIA Opposes Release Of Secret Files

Reuters

The CIA urged Congress yesterday to reject legislation that would speed the release of secret U.S. files that could help identify human rights violators throughout Latin America.

Asserting it had already gone to "extraordinary lengths" in terms of disclosure, the spy agency said its ability to recruit foreigners, gather secrets and do business was on the line.

Under the proposed Human Rights Information Act, "sources will be imperiled and

the mission of the CIA -- to support the Congress and the president -- will be disadvantaged," Lee Strickland, a senior agency official, told a panel of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The bill, as introduced in the House and Senate, would immediately cover Honduras and Guatemala, two of the countries hardest hit by paramilitary repression during the Cold War. A provision in the bill would expand the expedited declassification of human

rights material to official investigators from other Latin American and Caribbean nations.

The legislation would require the CIA, State Department, Justice Department, Pentagon and other federal bureaucracies to lean toward openness. Under the bill, they would have to apply the same standards that have resulted in the recent declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages on the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Leo Valladares, national

commissioner for human rights in Honduras, told the House panel that timely access to files documenting close U.S. ties to the Honduran military during the 1980s was "critical" to his effort to obtain justice for the families of Hondurans who "disappeared" at that time.

"The cycle of impunity must be broken," he said in testimony praised by Democrats and Republicans on the subcommittee on government management, information and technology.

New York Times

May 12, 1998

Israel Now Admits Pollard Was Its Agent

By Reuters

JERUSALEM, -- Israel Monday officially recognized Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew jailed in the United States for spying for Israel, as its agent -- 13 years after he was denied sanctuary in its Washington Embassy.

Israeli officials said they hoped the move would make it easier for Israel to negotiate for

the early release of Pollard, a former United States Navy intelligence analyst, who is serving a life sentence.

"The state has announced that Jonathan Pollard acted as an Israeli agent handled by those serving as senior officials of the Bureau for Scientific Relations," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said in a statement.

Pollard was caught in 1985 after passing Israel information on Arab countries that he said the United States should not have withheld from an ally.

Israel originally distanced itself from Pollard.

But two years ago a campaign intensified to win him official recognition as an agent, and Israel made him a citizen.

In a North Carolina prison last year, he told an Israeli

Cabinet minister that he felt "profound sorrow and remorse" for passing the classified information to Israel. His comments were broadcast in Israel.

"My motives may have been well and good," Pollard said, "but they only served to explain why I did what I did. They certainly do not serve as an excuse for breaking the law."

USA Today

May 12, 1998

Pg. 1

Commemoration Of Berlin Airlift To Begin

By Susan Page, USA TODAY

Fifty years ago, Paul Goertz was 9 years old and living in blockaded Berlin. His family's home had been destroyed by allied bombs, and hope was in even shorter supply than bread.

Then the German boy watched in awe as U.S. and British planes began a seemingly unending procession, buzzing the apartment build-

ings on either side of Tempelhof Airport day and night as they ferried 2.3 million tons of coal and food to a city besieged by the Soviets.

Gail Halvorsen was one of the U.S. pilots in the sky, a 27-year-old volunteer for the fledgling airlift. "I heard most of the people in Berlin who were cut off from food and sustenance were women and children, and I thought it was a

dirty trick," he recalls. "It was a challenge."

A challenge it was. Defying policymakers who warned it couldn't succeed, U.S. and British forces undertook the greatest humanitarian air rescue in history. Ten months later, the first confrontation of the Cold War ended with Soviet leader Josef Stalin lifting the blockade.

The airlift's success was a

triumph for the West that helped turn World War II foes into steadfast friends and propel creation of NATO later that year.

In the first stop of a European tour that begins today, President Clinton will kick off a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. In a ceremony at Tempelhof Thursday, Clinton and German Chancellor Hel-

mut Kohl will tour The Spirit of Freedom, a C-54 cargo plane used in the airlift that has been restored as a flying museum. They will dedicate a new generation C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane as The Spirit of Berlin.

Clinton's itinerary also includes the annual Group of Seven economic summit where he joins leaders of the world's financial heavyweights - Canada, France, Germany, Great

Britain, Italy, Japan. The G-7 leaders, meeting in Birmingham, England, will be joined by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Clinton will attend a U.S.-European Union summit in London.

But no other event during his week-long trip is likely to have the emotional resonance of the airlift commemoration, held in a Berlin that is being restored as the capital of a unified Germany. Attending will be aging Americans who flew the planes and Berliners whose lives and freedom they helped save.

"Everything was in ruins, and people were pretty much starving. A loaf of bread was a treasure," says Goerz, who later emigrated to the United States and is now a police officer living in Basking Ridge, N.J. He remembers when the planes coming in for a landing suddenly began dropping Hershey bars and Wrigley gum, tied in handkerchiefs that were deployed as tiny parachutes.

Halvorsen, dubbed "the Candy Bomber," devised the idea as a surreptitious treat for children who had been deprived of so much. After some favorable worldwide publicity, more than 250,000 pieces of donated candy were launched.

"We children couldn't figure it out, 'What's coming from the sky?'" Goerz says. Once the packages were retrieved, "we realized these were friendly gestures."

'We have no coal'

The crisis began on June 24, 1948, when the Soviets cut off rail, road and waterway access to Berlin, blaming "technical difficulties." World War II had ended just three years earlier, and Stalin was ready to challenge the Western powers that controlled sectors of the divided city, isolated 110 miles

inside the Soviet occupation zone. The airlift officially began two days later, on June 26, with supplies for U.S. troops. Supplies for Berliners began arriving on June 28.

"All food has to come by air. That will be for a certain time but can't be in wintertime . . . and what will be in winter? We have no coal," Christa Ruffer, a 19-year-old Berliner, wrote in her diary on June 29, 1948. She is now Christa Ronke, a 68-year-old grandmother still living in Berlin. She relayed entries from the worn green diary during a telephone interview.

"The war ghost is going around," she wrote then. "If the Americans will give up the western part of Berlin, we will be Communistic and that will be awful, or we will have war. Nobody knows what there will be tomorrow. If we are fortunate, the Russians will give up, and then everything would be OK. But I don't think the Russians will give up."

While Christa worried, U.S. leaders debated how to respond. Gen. Lucius Clay, the American military commander of Germany, proposed sending an armed convoy along the autobahn across 125 miles of Soviet-controlled territory. But Truman administration officials feared that could spark a war with the Soviets. Without asking Washington for permission, Clay started the airlift.

Clay did meet first with Berlin's legendary mayor, Ernst Reuter, to ask if the city's war-weary citizens were prepared to withstand more hardship. Robert Lochner, Clay's interpreter and a U.S. citizen who still lives in Berlin, recalls the conversation clearly.

"You take care of the airlift and I'll take care of the Berliners," he says the mayor responded. In her diary, Christa recorded similar sentiments: "We are fighting for democracy, and about 80% of the Berliner people are for that."

But there were serious doubts that an airlift could transport the daily food ration needed to sustain the city's 2 million residents: 646 tons of flour and wheat, 125 tons of cereal, 64 tons of fat, 109 tons of meat and fish, 180 tons of dehydrated potatoes, 180 tons of sugar, 11 tons of coffee, 19

tons of powdered milk, 5 tons of whole milk for children, 3 tons of fresh yeast for baking, 144 tons of dehydrated vegetables, 38 tons of salt and 10 tons of cheese. Coal and liquid fuel were in critically short supply.

At the time, Clay held a thumb and forefinger apart and predicted pessimistically, "I wouldn't give you that for our chances." In his memoirs, Truman wrote, "Even the Air Force chiefs themselves at first had serious doubts it could be done."

Clay called Frankfurt to confer with Gen. Curtis LeMay, then commanding general of U.S. air forces in Europe.

"Have you any planes there that can carry coal?" Clay asked, in a conversation related by Truman biographer Robert H. Ferrell.

"Carry what?" LeMay asked.

"Coal."

"We must have a bad phone connection," LeMay said. "It sounds as if you are asking if we have planes for carrying coal."

Clay said, "Yes, that's what I said: coal."

After a pause, LeMay responded, "The Air Force can deliver anything."

In the end, the airlift pilots flew 277,569 flights. That's an average of 601 flights a day for 462 days - 25 an hour, day and night, clear weather and foul. At its peak, a plane was landing every three minutes at each of three airfields: Tempelhof, Gatow and, later, Tegel, built by the Berliners themselves from the rubble of war.

By September 1948, Christa Ruffer was feeling a bit safer. "I think there will be no war this year," she wrote in her diary. "That is my opinion now."

Organizing a rodeo

"It was basically nose to tail, three minutes apart," recalls William Voigt, a 77-year-old retired Air Force pilot who now lives in Dover, Del. The airlift planes flew in such close formation that a pilot who missed his first approach on landing in Berlin didn't get a second chance, forced to return to his home base with his cargo still loaded.

"When we first started, it

was sort of like a rodeo, where there's a bull or wild horse in the ring and everybody is running around with their heads off," Voigt says. With the arrival of Maj. Gen. William Tunner - officially nicknamed "Tonnage Tunner" but known to his troops as "Willie the Whip" - things were organized with a meticulous attention to detail. All the pilots were trained to handle instrument landings. Minute calculations were made on what to carry.

Was it better to fly in loaves of bread, or to fly in the flour and coal to bake bread? Since a loaf of bread was 30% water, the raw materials were carried in. Only dehydrated potatoes were flown in, one-fifth the weight of fresh ones. Coal was carried first in leftover World War II canvas "B-bags," then in hemp bags and finally in reinforced paper.

"We were flying and sleeping, flying and sleeping," says Halvorsen, 77, who lives in Provo, Utah, but will be in Berlin for this week's celebration. The crews flew for 12 hours, then had 12 hours off.

Voigt flew 116 roundtrips, all of them carrying coal. "We got filthy dirty," he recalls. "We looked like coal miners." When one of the airlift's C-54s was restored and displayed at Dover Air Force Base, Voigt checked the plane's tail numbers (C54E-44-9030) and his logbooks and found he had flown four trips in it.

There's still coal dust in its belly.

On May 12, 1949, the Soviets finally lifted the blockade, though the airlift continued at a reduced level through September to build up supplies in case it was imposed again.

"We heard on the radio the starting of the first train," Christa wrote in her diary in May. "We danced and were so glad that we are free now." The shops were soon full of food. "I ate fish!" she wrote.

"This was the first great confrontation of the Cold War, and it sets the tone for the Cold War thereafter," says Roger Miller, an Air Force historian and author of *To Save a City: The Berlin Airlift*. "The Soviets will push when they think they can gain an advantage, but they will stop when we show our resolve. The ground rules were

established at the time of the Berlin crisis."

Ingeborg Lee, then a German toddler living near the U.S. feeder base in Celle, has a more personal perspective on the airlift. For her family, it marked the return of sense of possibility after a long war. She later married an Air Force serviceman and now lives in Clinton, Utah.

"I remember vividly the planes flying over constantly," she says. "There was a plane every minute, constantly going

and coming and going and coming." For some members of her family, the sound of planes "always meant something bad," a warning that bombs would soon follow.

But not for her.

"I had the feeling of security when I heard the planes, because I was told they were doing something good," she says. Now, at 52, she has the same reaction. "It is still a very secure feeling in me. Even these days, every time I hear planes, it is something good."

USA Today

May 12, 1998

Pg. 5

ANTI-MISSILE TEST: Strong winds caused military officials to postpone until today a test of the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense system, which is designed to shoot down enemy missiles. Officials will fire a weapon from the White Sands, N.M., test range in an attempt to hit and destroy a dummy missile warhead high overhead. After four consecutive failures, experts found problems in a part that steers the missile carrying the anti-missile weapon. "I've got a lot of confidence that we will intercept in this test," said Brig. Gen. Daniel Montgomery of the Army's Air and Missile Defense unit.

Washington Times

May 12, 1998

Pg. 13

U.S. negotiator makes no progress on Kosovo

By Misha Savic
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — A U.S. envoy said yesterday he has been unable to bring Yugoslav and ethnic Albanian leaders closer together on how to end the growing bloodshed in the restive Serbian province of Kosovo.

With the crisis in danger of deteriorating into an all-out war that could spread through the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, who helped negotiate a peace deal in Bosnia-Herzegovina, shuttled across Yugoslavia.

Ethnic Albanians in the southern province are pressing for independence from Serbia — the larger of the two republics that make up Yugoslavia. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has ruled that out and also rejects foreign mediation.

Mr. Holbrooke and colleague Robert Gelbard, who returned to Belgrade from Albania yesterday, met with Mr. Milosevic and ethnic Albanian leaders over the weekend but failed to change their stance on U.S.-brokered talks.

"I can tell you in all candor that the distance between the two sides is very great and we will continue under direct instructions and encouragement from Secretary [of State Madeleine K.] Albright and President Clinton to see if we can help bridge that gap," Mr. Holbrooke said yesterday.

U.S. envoys planned to travel between Kosovo and Belgrade today for further talks with Mr. Milosevic and ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

After meeting with Mr. Holbrooke, Mr. Milosevic — in one of his most conciliatory messages so far — issued a statement calling for "cooperation as the best way to

achieve mutual trust."

Briefing the U.N. Security Council in New York, the top international mediator for Bosnia, Carlos Westendorp, warned that the fighting could send refugees fleeing to other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

In Kosovo, the security situation worsened, with Albanian militants now in control of large swaths of the rugged countryside. For the first time in weeks, fighting was reported very close to Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

The province's main east-west road was closed Friday night after reports of gunbattles between militants of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) and Serbian police. At least one militant was reported killed and four policemen wounded.

The Serbian Media Center in Kosovo said yesterday that three Serbs were wounded when machine-gun fire struck their car on a road near Srbica, about 20 miles northwest of Pristina.

The center reported late Sunday that a policeman was struck by sniper fire near Babaloc.

Los Angeles Times

May 12, 1998

U.S. Official's Praise For Croatian Angers Bosnia Leader

By Tracy Wilkinson

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A senior U.S. official's praise for one of Croatia's most strident nationalists has triggered a bitter diplomatic row and invited unusually harsh words from the Muslim president of Bosnia.

The anger of President Alija Izetbegovic comes at a time his cooperation is needed in deli-

cate negotiations over refugee returns, restructuring the national media and other unresolved elements of the Bosnian peace process.

Washington is one of Sarajevo's principal allies, with Americans holding key positions in all peacekeeping organizations here, so it was startling to see such a public show of displeasure from the Bosnian leader toward a U.S. official.

It all began with the death from cancer of Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susak, a hard-line nationalist who directed the wartime revolt by Bosnian Croats against the Muslim-led Bosnian government. The Bosnian Croats wanted to secede and join Croatia, a goal that Susak encouraged. The mini-war that followed claimed thousands of lives until a U.S.-brokered

agreement in 1994 halted the fighting.

Susak is a national hero in Croatia but is seen by many Bosnians as a warmonger. Still, Jacques P. Klein, an American diplomat and the No. 2 international mediator in Bosnia, eulogized Susak as an exemplary leader.

Klein is the top-ranking American in the Office of the High Representative, the prin-

cial body overseeing implementation of the December 1995 peace accords that ended Bosnia's 3½-year war. Under his orders and without higher clearance, the office issued a statement last week lamenting Susak's May 3 death and praising his role in building peace.

Klein followed the statement with a newspaper interview in which he declared Susak a man of "vision" in a region of self-interested politicians who cannot see "the larger picture."

"Currently, there is no (other) politician who has such credibility and power," he was quoted in the interview by veteran reporter Amra Kebo.

Klein's regard for Susak and Croatia's equally hard-line President Franjo Tudjman is well-known and is born of the cooperation they gave him when the American administered a section of Croatia captured by the Serbs in 1991 and returned to the Croats in January of this year.

But what surprised many, including people on his own staff, was Klein's willingness to praise Susak in the wake of violence in the Bosnian city of Drvar, where Bosnian Croat militants in recent days have murdered and beaten Serbs, torched their houses and destroyed a U.N. police station, all to prevent the return of Bosnian Serb refugees.

The hard-liners being held

responsible for the deadly violence are proteges of Susak.

Izetbegovic, Bosnia's president throughout the war and now the Muslim representative in this nation's three-member collective presidency, was outraged at Klein's remarks in the newspaper interview, which he branded as "arrogant" and "insulting."

Izetbegovic is normally reserved in public, in contrast to Klein's blunt, aggressive style. The president's language, then, stunned observers and appeared to reflect a growing resentment among many Bosnians at the way in which international mediators are taking a greater role in running the country, after nationalist local leaders have consistently refused to

cooperate in postwar reconciliation.

"I was amazed at the level of your arrogance," Izetbegovic said in an open letter that was widely publicized. "The (Bosnian) peace accords did not establish a protectorate in Bosnia, and you are not the protector. ... Our people like foreigners as friends but not as tutors. Don't try to be one."

Klein declined to answer questions about the dispute and referred the Los Angeles Times to a press statement issued late last week. A press officer for the High Representative's Office said Klein did not mean to insult Bosnians but intended to offer an "epitaph" for a man with whom he had worked closely.

Baltimore Sun

May 12, 1998

Pg. 8

India's nuclear escalation

■ *Tests: Fear of China, animosity toward Pakistan, Hindu nationalism fuel explosions.*

STRATEGICALLY, India's explosion of three nuclear devices beneath the desert near Pakistan on Monday is aimed at a stronger China. The two fought in 1962 near their Himalayan borders when neither was nuclear. Now China is developing its military capabilities rapidly, and its growing naval capabilities disturb India.

Diplomatically, India's muscle-flexing is aimed more at Pakistan, the weaker neighbor that undermines India's rule in disputed Kashmir and Jammu. Pakistan, along with Israel and India, is understood to be at least nuclear-ready, probably with weapons in kit form waiting to be assembled.

Politically, India's nuclear tests are a triumph for Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of militant Hindu nationalists.

It came to power with a coalition seven weeks ago, advocating nuclear options and firmness toward Pakistan.

For much of India's technology

sector, the tests are a welcome display of national prowess. But India's first testing since 1974 of more sophisticated devices is destabilizing.

It could panic Pakistan into open competition. It reflects Indian fears of a China-Pakistan alliance that could be self-fulfilling. And it undermines a de facto world moratorium on nuclear testing.

This event should automatically shut down direct U.S. military aid, which is minuscule. More importantly, it puts lending to India by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which Washington has the power to block, at risk.

A concerted policy is likely to emerge from the summit of the industrial powers of the Group of Eight, which includes most of the nuclear powers, in England next weekend.

This forum was begun for economic policy coordination, but it increasingly takes on political problems.

How to contain the Asian nuclear race when Russia, the United States, Britain and France are scaling back their own nuclear armaments is certainly paramount among them.

Washington Times

May 12, 1998 Pg. 15

Rockets, shells hit Israel from Lebanon

JERUSALEM — Guerrillas in Lebanon fired rockets and mortar bombs at an Israeli army border post in northern Israel yesterday, security sources said.

Israel's Channel Two television showed smoke rising from Manara army outpost just inside Israel across the border from south Lebanon, where Israel occupies a 9-mile border strip.

Security sources said two soldiers were wounded in the attack, the first to spill out of south Lebanon into northern Israel in months.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

May 12, 1998 Pg. B4

USS George Washington set for 10-month repair

NORFOLK — The aircraft carrier USS George Washington moved from the Norfolk Naval Base to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard yesterday to undergo 10 months of maintenance work.

The carrier returned April 3 from its deployment in the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf, where it conducted sorties in support of Operation Southern Watch, enforcing the "no-fly" zone over Iraq.

The 1,084-foot-long, 257-foot-wide ship will be modified to improve readiness and the quality of life for its sailors. The shipyard doing the work is in Portsmouth.

U.S. Military Refashions Its Rations

New MREs Aim to Please Troops' Palates While Sustaining Them in the Field

By KATHERINE E. TALLMADGE

Special to The Washington Post

Remember the school lunch your mom used to prepare for you? The peanut butter sandwich, red Delicious apple and potato chips she'd carefully pack in your Scooby Doo lunch box? But could Mom keep a lunch wholesome, healthy and edible after exposure to temperatures as high as 120 degrees or as low as 60 degrees below zero? Could your school lunch survive a 1,250-foot drop from an aircraft, and resist rat, insect, bacteria and disease infestation while stored for three years anywhere in the world?

Probably not.

But military meals have to. While the armed services don't claim to compete with Mom's home cooking, these are just some of the requirements they give contractors who produce their combat rations.

With about 30,000 Americans serving in the Persian Gulf and thousands of troops stationed in Bosnia, South Korea and in other posts throughout the world, feeding America's soldiers is crucial to national security. While not as sexy as smart bombs, ensuring safe food and water is essential to maintaining military might.

"The soldier is the most important asset in the military arsenal; improperly fed or dehydrated troops can be a war stopper," said Jerry Darsch, of the Soldier Systems Command in Natick, Mass.

Designing military meals takes into account not only war conditions, but also climates, physical terrain and the special physiological needs of young, highly active men and women.

Preserving palatability and safety while transporting food long distances; keeping it in hot or freezing or harsh climates; and storing it in trenches or in ship holds are among the logistical challenges.

Researchers have determined that soldiers' nutritional demands are different from those of the general public. Because soldiers are younger and more physically active than the typical person, their calorie, sodium and fluid requirements are higher. For instance, the typical American generally needs 2,000 calories a day, but a soldier may require as much as 3,600 calories in hot or temperate climates, 4,500 calories in the extreme cold or 6,000 calories in high altitudes. A soldier should also have more fluids and sodium because both are lost through sweating during field maneuvers or intense activity, especially in extreme environments.

While group meals with fresh food are always the strong preference of any commander or soldier, they are out of the question during highly mobile situations, intense conflict or in an area that troops have just moved into. Providing fresh food causes too many problems, such as the demand for temperature-controlled shipping and storage, sanitation equipment, kitchens, trained cooks and Army veterinarians who are in charge of food safety—all impossible in a combat area. Until these kinds of facilities can be set up, the soldiers need specially designed combat rations.

Combat rations must be compact and lightweight so

soldiers can carry enough for several days' nourishment during combat. Containers must be durable, with the contents impervious to combat and storage conditions, as well as temperature. And there must be hundreds of thousands of meals available on a moment's notice to transport by sea or air in case of the sudden deployment of a large number of troops.

The Persian Gulf War was a test of the military's ability to move hundreds of thousands of troops into an unforgiving environment and keep them adequately nourished for many months. The chief innovation in the Persian Gulf War was the improvement of the modern combat ration originally developed in 1983, dubbed "Meal, Ready to Eat," or MRE.

Each MRE, which on average costs the military \$6.08, is a sealed bag of foods that provide one-third of a soldier's daily nutritional requirements. The combination of a main course and various side dishes and snacks provides about 1,300 calories and weighs only 1½ pounds.

Although these MREs may be used initially in a combat situation, once troops have secured an area, "more fresh rations are added from either U.S. or local sources," said dietitian Celia Adolphi, a logistics management specialist for the Army. She added that to take care of the soldiers' water needs, at first soldiers are provided bottled water, but as the area stabilizes, water purification equipment is brought in for local water.

Many soldiers who served in the Persian Gulf during the Desert Storm operations were fed MREs for part of their stay.

"We ate a lot of MREs; they were part of the ... experience," said Doug Brown, a gunnery sergeant who spent 10 months in the Gulf and is now stationed at Miramar Marine Air Station in San Diego. He recalled five or six menu variations and said the soldiers often traded foods. "We did a lot of mixing, matching, saving and horse-trading," he said. "You never knew what you were going to get when you opened the box."

Another Persian Gulf veteran also at Miramar, Sgt. Shane Scarpino, recalls that MREs were all he was served during the first four months. He and his comrades quickly grew weary of them.

"In the beginning, we got what were clearly some very old MREs. Most were edible, but my dog wouldn't eat the chicken à la king," said Scarpino. But as the war went on, the MREs improved, he added. "There was more variety, and some were even good, like the beef stew, meatballs with barbecue sauce, and tuna with noodles."

The military made many food improvements based on the Persian Gulf experience. Some of the MREs used early in the war may have been around for four years and stored at very high temperatures in ship holds. While they were still safe, freshness and flavor were compromised.

"We learned from Desert Storm that nutrition isn't everything. The rations had to be made more palatable and there had to be more variety or the soldiers just wouldn't eat them. And good food is very important for morale," Darsch added.

Since then, the military expanded MRE selections from

12 to 24. They now include commercial products such as M&Ms, cheese curls and granola bars. Unpopular entrees such as chicken à la king have been eliminated, and 75 new items were added with more vegetarian and ethnic foods, such as black beans and rice burritos and pasta primavera.

A flameless heater now comes in every MRE bag, so that the entrees can be heated. And combat rations are generally distributed to troops within 2½ to 3 years of being produced, an improvement over the four or more years in the past.

Nevertheless, fresh food is vastly preferred. As a result, military chefs are also trying to get the soldiers fresh food sooner and more frequently so they rely less on MREs. ■

Washington Post May 12, 1998 Pg. 14

Iran, Iraq Search for Soldiers' Remains

TEHRAN—Iran and Iraq launched their first joint operation to search for remains of soldiers killed in their 1980-88 war, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It quoted Brig. Gen. Mirfaisal Baqerzadeh, head of Iran's committee for the war's missing in action, as saying a 10-man Iranian team entered Iraq to take part in a search in former battle zones.

Ignored, Powerful Report Fails To Fuel Debate On Cuban Policy

Richmond Times-Dispatch May 10, 1998 Pg. F2

John Hall

WASHINGTON -- The Defense Department's much-leaked report declaring Cuba a negligible military threat is like mariachi with no dancing.

Why, if Cuba no longer is a threat, does American policy still treat this impoverished country as a hostile nation spreading Marxism throughout the hemisphere and menacing American shores?

The answer does not come either from the Pentagon or from the Clinton administration. We only get, as in so many other cases in regards to foreign policy under President Clinton, the question and the problem. In this instance, there also are some startling facts from an unimpeachable source.

There was no more vigilant organization during the Cold War than the Defense Intelligence Agency. Others may have wavered or questioned whether the Soviet Union and its allies around the world were as mighty or ill-intentioned as they were made out. But the DIA always was in the ranks of those who argued the United States never could build enough weapons or field enough forces to meet the

threat of world communism.

To read the DIA's report on Cuba now is jolting -- no matter how much defense writers tell us there are no surprises in it and no matter how much Defense Secretary William Cohen tries to minimize its importance.

With the collapse of its Soviet benefactors, Cuba is a country virtually without offensive military capability. Its air force consists of less than two dozen MiG fighters with pilot training "barely adequate to maintain proficiency." Its navy has no submarines and less than a dozen operational surface vessels. Its army, according to the DIA, is incapable of mounting any operation above the battalion level.

Most of its military equipment is in storage and unavailable for an emergency.

This is the force, once the largest in Latin America, that repelled the Bay of Pigs invasion, spread revolution and insurrection into El Salvador and Nicaragua, and went to Africa to fight alongside its Marxist brethren in Angola.

"At present, Cuba does not pose a significant military threat to the U.S. or to other countries in the region," concludes the DIA. "Cuba has little

motivation to engage in military activity beyond defense of its territory and political system."

Some concern was expressed about Cuba's advanced biotechnological facilities and its limited spying capabilities.

But the main anxiety among Pentagon professionals is about internal upheaval.

The potential for instability and violence when Fidel Castro dies is high. The DIA said pressures for change are likely to grow when Castro leaves the scene and his successors may find that difficult to manage even if they take power by force.

The other threat is from a resumption of raft and boat traffic to the United States, whether or not Castro instigates it again. If Cuba's slow-growing economy resumes its downward spiral, under a U.S. economic embargo that is tightening rather than relaxing as Cuba's threat fades, pressures for migrants to flee would increase despite Cuban and U.S. prohibitions.

In other words, sustained political upheaval -- not any foreseeable attempt to rearm Cuba -- is now the major threat to U.S. interests. The DIA doesn't venture into political

conclusions. But the unspoken message is that intentionally spoiling Cuba's economy no longer is in American or hemispheric interests. In fact, it could lead to great harm.

No one has any interest in seeing Castro any stronger than he is. Nonetheless, military weakness can lead to unintentional consequences.

U.S.-based Cuban patriots lately have been emboldened to take some chances. The New York Times reported that the Coast Guard intercepted a cruiser near Puerto Rico in October operated by four Cuban exiles containing a collection of weapons and equipment, including night scopes and two high-powered sniper rifles, to be used in an assassination attempt against Castro.

Clinton cites the Helms-Burton act as tying his hands as far as any attempt to lift the embargo. But what really ties his hands is Florida politics, and -- so far -- Clinton has not made much of an attempt to lead public opinion on this crucial area 90 miles from Florida's shores.

John Hall is the Washington bureau chief of Media General News Service. E-mail him at: jhall@media-general.com

Washington Post

May 12, 1998

Pg. 14

Fighting Briefly Closes Kosovo Highway

SLATINA, Yugoslavia—Fighting between Serbian security forces and ethnic Albanian separatists briefly closed the main east-west highway in the Serbian province of Kosovo yesterday, just seven miles west of the province's capital, Pristina, witnesses said.

Sporadic fighting continued throughout the weekend, concentrated around the villages of Orlate and Lapushnik. At least two police troop carriers were destroyed in the fighting, witnesses

said.

In Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, U.S. envoy Richard C. Holbrooke said after talks with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Kosovo Albanian separatists that "the distance between the two sides is very great." But he said after a second meeting with Milosevic that he would continue his mediation mission and would return to Pristina today to see Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova again.

'Public Perception' Scuttled Waste Burn

Material is cleaner than that normally burned, experts say; Sauget firm faces Illinois charges

By Paige Fumo of
the Post-Dispatch

The waste that the Army decided against sending to an incinerator in Sauget is small potatoes compared with what the incinerator now burns, experts say.

The difference, said Bill Child of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, was with the public perception of military chemical waste. "It just scares the bejeebers out of them," Child said.

The Army on Thursday scuttled plans to burn military waste at Trade Waste Incineration in the face of complaints from Congress and the public.

The incinerator is the only such commercial facility in Illinois. Missouri has a handful, and the nearest one to the area is the River City cement kiln in Festus.

Trade Waste burns a wide variety of hazardous materials, including material removed from hazardous waste sites and household wastes such as paint, cleansers and chemicals. The incinerator does not burn dioxin or PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

The material the Army wanted to burn at Trade Waste was water containing chlorine bleach, sodium chloride (baking soda), traces of heavy metals such as mercury and lead, and traces of mustard agent from unused chemical weapons.

Army officials said the chemical solution "was cleaner than the safe drinking water standards set by the Army surgeon general."

In another case involving military weapons waste, community outcry last month persuaded the Navy to turn around a shipment of napalm scheduled for incineration in East Chicago, Ind.

That issue could have been on the minds of people who opposed the Army's proposal to ship waste from its storage site on Johnston Island, 850 miles southwest of Hawaii, to Sauget.

"Individuals are trying to compare apples and oranges," said Bernie Godek of UXB International Inc., the company arranging the disposal of the Army waste. "There is no comparison between napalm and (the material on Johnston Island). But, yes, there is heightened awareness (because of the controversial napalm shipment)." 'Its share of problems'

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has several pending complaints against Trade Waste that are being reviewed by state's attorney general. The agency alleges that the firm allowed the release of mercaptan into the air and improperly handled chemicals, causing small explosions.

"They have had a great deal of trouble handling routine hazardous waste on occasion," said Tom Davis, the attorney general's environmental bureau chief. "This company has had its share of problems."

TWI is the only facility in Illinois that accepts hazardous waste from outside sources, as opposed to firms that handle the waste they generate on their own sites, the Illinois EPA said.

The Illinois EPA allegations against TWI, from February 1996 through February 1998, include claims that the company improperly handled containers of sodium amide, which caused a small explosion

that injured one worker; improperly combined chemicals in the incinerator, causing an explosion; and allowed mercaptan to be released from the site, causing people in downtown St. Louis to suffer nausea.

Illinois EPA spokesman Dennis McMurray said the explosions were small and contained to the kiln. They were referred to the attorney general "because they resulted in particles not going through the pollution control equipment." No formal charges have been filed against TWI.

The company is operating under the third of three consent orders, the latest signed in June 1995.

Under the order, the company paid \$ 475,000 to the state and provided \$ 200,000 in services to help with the cleanup of waste in the East St. Louis area; and \$ 175,000 in services to handle household hazardous waste disposal for St. Clair, Madison and Monroe counties.

The company's alleged violations leading to the consent order did not endanger anyone, according to the attorney general, but they violated state regulations. The consent order did not constitute admission of the violations.

"There were alleged violations in the past," said Tom Bramlette, Trade Waste's general manager. "They were minor incidents in our opinion, and we self-reported them."

St. Louis
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The Illinois EPA, in reviewing the incinerator's permit renewal application, is looking into tightening restrictions, McMurray said.

"We're looking at whether we would have legal authority to put limits on mercury or other metals," he said.

The agency conducted an annual inspection of the site last week, but McMurray said he could not yet disclose the results of the evaluation.

* What happened

The Army on Thursday scuttled plans to burn military waste at Trade Waste Incineration. The material the Army wanted to burn at Trade Waste was water containing chlorine bleach, sodium chloride (baking soda), traces of heavy metals and traces of mustard agent.

** What Trade Waste burns

The company burns a wide variety of hazardous materials, including material removed from hazardous waste sites and household wastes. The incinerator does not burn dioxin or PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

*** Complaints against the company

The Illinois Environmental Agency has several pending complaints against Trade Waste that are being reviewed by state's attorney general. The company's reply: "They were minor incidents in our opinion, and we self-reported them."

South China Morning Post

May 11, 1998

Taiwan, Mainland Test New Missiles

Agencies

Both Beijing and Taipei have flexed their military muscles with the test-firing of new missiles. Guangzhou Daily reported yesterday that China's Air Force had successfully tested a new air-to-air missile. The test, conducted over a base in the Badanjilin Desert in the northwest, involved a new type of jet fighter firing at an unmanned drone, the paper said.

It did not give any details about the new missile.

The paper quoted base commander Colonel Tang Zhengqi as saying more than 800 tests involving thousands of missiles had been held there since 1958.

On Friday, Taiwan successfully tested a French-made Mica missile in preparation for a military exercise which starts today, the China Times reported.

The air-to-air missile, launched by a Mirage fighter, hit a target in the rehearsal off southern Taiwan, the report said.

It was the first time the

Mica had been tested outside France, the report said, adding that Taiwan had bought 960 of the missiles.

The tests, supervised by Chief of the General Staff Tang Fei, also involved two pilotless aircraft and sea-to-sea Harpoon missiles launched by six Knox-class frigates.

The live-fire war game starting today, codenamed Han Kuang 14, will reportedly be staged in Hualien and Taitung on the east of the island until Thursday. Military spokesman Kung Fan-ding said the annual exercise was designed to combat the threat of a mainland invasion.

Serb Suspects To Get Separate Trials In Hague

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — War crimes judges Monday rejected a request by prosecutors to jointly try four Bosnian Serbian suspects, saying justice would be best served by keeping the cases separate. The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal judges said the imminent trial of Milan Kovacevic should not be delayed so he can be tried together with the other three, Miroslav Kvocka, Mladen Radic and Zoran Zigic.

The U.N. court has been

trying to consolidate some cases to improve its efforts to prosecute major suspects. But the judges said in an oral ruling Monday that trying these four together would overly prejudice the cases against each individual.

Prosecutors say all four are linked to the torture and slayings in 1992 of hundreds of Muslim and Croatian inmates at the Serbian-run Omarska and Keraterm prison camps in northwestern Bosnia. Their push was an attempt to prevent multiple separate trials for re-

lated offenses, slowing down the court tribunal.

Four trials already are going on simultaneously, and The Hague's 24-cell holding block is full of suspects. A second trial chamber was opened this month, and charges were dropped Friday against 14 Bosnian Serbs so the tribunal can focus more on major suspects.

Kovacevic, charged with complicity in genocide, has been accused of setting up the camps. His trial was due to

begin Monday but was delayed because of the pending motions.

Kvocka and Radic are charged with a total of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to atrocities allegedly committed by guards under their command at Omarska. Zigic faces a total of 69 counts of crimes against humanity, war crimes and grave breaches of the Geneva conventions for his alleged conduct in the Omarska and Keraterm camps.

Iraqi Envoy Seeks End To Sanctions

BAGHDAD, Iraq (A) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein dispatched his top diplomat to Europe on Monday to rally support in his fight against U.N. trade sanctions.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrived Monday in

Amman, Jordan, and took off for Paris shortly afterward. His European tour will include France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. He may also visit Russia and China.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf,

who arrived in Amman on Saturday, held talks with Jordan's King Hussein on Sunday in a bid to win Jordanian support for a lifting of sanctions. He is on his way to several African countries to try to convince their leaders that Baghdad has

scrapped all the prohibited weapons in its arsenal. France, Russia and China, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, have been pressing the United Nations to ease the sanctions.

The French Ambassador Replies

The Post's outrageous editorial on the mission of French troops in Bosnia and the pursuit of war criminals ["Shameful, Not Questionable," April 24] demands the following clarification:

With regard to the attitude of the French officer who The Post says might have collaborated with Radovan Karadzic in his efforts to evade capture, let me point out that the officer was conducting a mission similar to those carried out by several of his colleagues from other contingents in the NATO-led stabilization force. The conditions under which he was recalled to France were set forth in a communique issued by the French Ministry of Defense.

The Washington Post is seizing the opportunity offered by this episode to immediately cast blame on France and the French army. I consider this all-too-careless judgment to be an insult both to the memory of the 72 French soldiers who died for peace in Bosnia and to the decisive role France played in the spring of 1995 to get its closest allies to commit themselves -- finally, decisively and on the ground -- to peace in Bosnia.

As for cooperation between French and American troops, given the space The Post devoted to Jeffrey Smith's investigation ["Secret Meetings Foiled Karadzic Capture Plan; U.S. Says French Jeopardized Mission," front page, April 23],

I am surprised The Post did not report declarations by U.S. government spokespersons who all hailed the close cooperation that exists on the ground, in Bosnia, between French and American forces, as well as the declaration that Defense Secretary William Cohen made personally on April 24. Allow me to cite a relevant passage:

"For more than two centuries, our military relationship with France has been based on shared security concerns and mutual respect. Those same qualities guide dealings between our militaries and our nations today. . . . Currently, French aircraft fly with American planes to patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, and

French and American troops are serving shoulder-to-shoulder in Bosnia, where France has long played a leadership role in U.N. and NATO efforts to bring peace and stability. The cooperation between our forces in Bosnia has been close since the establishment of IFOR in 1995. It is close today, and will continue to be close and productive in the future."

FRANCOIS BUJON DE L'ESTANG
Ambassador
Embassy of France
Washington

Editor's Note: The editorial referred to appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, April 24, 1998, Pg. 17.

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